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DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

**WATER DISTRICT 37-B
ANNUAL WATER DISTRICT MEETING**

February 13, 2014 1:00p.m.

Lou Andersen introduced himself and called the meeting to order. He explained that the group did not have a secretary and he asked Mickey Dalin to take minutes for the first meeting. The group will have a secretary and a water master in the future.

The first order of business was to nominate a meeting Chairman. David Simon moved to nominate Lou Andersen as meeting Chairman. Second by Ken Cox. Motion carries with no opposition.

Lou Andersen explained that The Department of Water Resources asked several water right holders to be on a steering committee. Lou explained that he was one of the fortunate to be chosen and would like to introduce the rest of the steering committee, Rod Gonsales, Dennis Strom, Bill Simon and Floyd Crandall unfortunately Floyd Crandall was unable to attend. He is in Arizona.

The Guests at the meeting were the Water Master representative from District 37 Kevin Lakey and Cindy Yenter, Water Master from District 130 and also an IDWR employee.

Lou Andersen explained that the district is starting at the beginning today. The proposed resolutions and budget are all new this year. It was prepared with as much knowledge that was available and with the help of years of knowledgeable water right holders. The resolutions and budgets can be adjusted in the future as the District moves forward and time proves that adjustments need made. Lou would like to thank IDWR for letting the district happen. We at first were in with District 37 but Camas County water users could see a difference between our users and that district. There were a lot volunteers that made District 37 B happen. Lee Barron wanted an explanation of where the two districts are. Lou explained that our water district starts at the Camas Creek Divide where the surface water flows into Camas Creek between there and Camas Creek confluence into the Big Wood River and all of the ground water in the same area.

Lou explained that all present have copies of proposed resolutions (operating statement). Bill Simon was asked to go through the resolutions because he did most of the work on them. Bill Simon explained that the resolutions were for the district on how it would operate with IDWR guidance referencing the regulations in Idaho code.

Resolution 1. annual meeting time and date

Resolution 2. minimum charge for year (reference resolution 8)

Resolution 3. due and payable (proposals of other Districts)

Resolution 4. right to demand and receive water

Resolution 5. adopt or amend resolutions

Resolution 6. explains board of advisors

Resolution 7. elect treasurer

Resolution 8. Idaho code budget to annual use following formula

Resolution 9. water users assessments based upon total amount of yearly water delivery and explanation of entities allowed a rebate

Resolution 10. Water master working with district advisory committee shall prepare proposed budget before annual meeting.

No questions from the audience

Jim Rice made the motion to adopt Resolutions 1-10 Dave Coates seconded the motion all in favor "I". No opposition to the motion.

Resolution 11. Adoption of budget is not included in vote.
Ground rules for Water District 37-B are set.

Lou Andersen explained that he has learned a lot about water rights and districts. He told the group that if you don't pay your assessment you don't get your water. To get your water back you will have to pay your back assessments and current assessments plus interest. Everyone has an authorized amount of acres to irrigate off of on their water right. The rights were figured as follows: surface water right the amount of acres multiplied by 1; ground water right amount of acres to irrigate multiplied by 1.75. That is the acre feet you will be assessed on. The first year amount is billed off of this amount. It will be assessed on actual usage after current year. If you are not using all of your right you could possibly lose it. Gordon Schmidt brought up an instance he has. He explained that he has 2 wells. One well has 80 acres the other well is tied up in CRP. He wanted to know what he would be billed on. Lou and Cindy explained that the CRP acres are protected. You may have to prove this but once proved the acres in CRP will pay the minimum fee. The other well will pay the right on the amount to irrigate multiplied by 1.75.

There are quite a few rights on the Prairie that no one has used for quite some time. When the water right gets measured and shows that it is not being used, the minimum which is \$25.00 will be billed. A point Lou wanted to make is that the District will not collect all the money on water rights that are assessed. At this point the District does not know who will pay and who will not. So, looking at the budget, it may be higher than needed because the district does not know what will be collected. It is a better practice to have too much money than not enough because you cannot change the assessment after adopted. If an emergency comes up then another meeting would have to be scheduled. It would be hard to get people together during irrigating season but it could be done.

In the Budget the water masters salary is figured at 105 total hours at an 8 hour day a year at \$20.00 hour. The water master will have to keep track of his time, what he works, (he may not need 105 hours) mileage, and data. It is elected and appointed positions (up every year) elected by water users and appointed by water resources.

Lee Presley spoke and stated that he would like another explanation on adjusting water usage by year. He explained that he doesn't understand why if you have a water right for an amount of acreage how can that change from year to year. Lou explained that is the amount billed for the first year. And IDWR referencing Idaho code explains from there how we bill the water right holder. All the water will be measured as soon as possible. It may not be this coming year but it will be in the future. Everyone is going to be required to put in a measuring device approved by IDWR. The water master will read the amount and record the data. The water right owner will let the water master know when you turn your water on (it will go through a measuring device). The water master will record the data and how many days you take water. Then you will be billed on the amount used for instance on a short water years the bill will not be as much as long water years. It will be on a 5 year rolling average as soon as the data is available. The data drops off and adds on the next year. Dave Coates explained that on surface water rights on a short water year the amount can change daily. Lou agreed but the average will be on the day that it is measured. Cindy spoke and stated that water users can be relied on but it is up to the water master to confirm the data. This is all in Idaho statutes. Priority dates were brought up, the question was would they stay as they were in the past. Lou stated that they would be the same. The question was asked how the water breaks down surface vs. ground in acres. Lou answered that there was more surface than ground water. The billing was weighted heavier to the ground water because it does not matter if the creek runs. When the surface water is measured it will change the weight. The water master will map and work with the surface water holder and install a diversion that is acceptable to IDWR. The first year or two the water master will be busy. The ground water users all ready have been working on this for two years. It is not finished but is close.

Other expenses in the budget are equipment, telephone, cell phone gps, and sound depth.

A secretary will be hired for the water district. The person will send out assessments and deposit money and take minutes from meetings. The treasurer will work with the secretary to audit and help check for accuracy within the water district.

An expense the district had incurred to get the district formed is legal fees. It is a onetime fee of 7,000. Now legal help is free with the Attorney General and IDWR council.

The Secretary position is an hourly position. The expense can also be for working toward an office for both a secretary and water master.

Lou wanted the audience to know that the water district is not an option it has to be done.

The land owner will be responsible to put in the measuring system to measure the water on his rights.

Lou has a sheet on all the assessments that would tell each land owner what they would owe. See him after the meeting if you want to know.

Lou asks if everyone is ready to vote on Budget

Jim Rice made a motion to accept the budget as presented second by Ed Smith. All in favor no opposition by a showing of hands.

Select Advisory Committee

The four areas to nominate representatives get together in groups and caucus for a committee member. When the representative is decided the group comes back to the whole and report to the committee. The committee members are announced.

Ground water user's representative Bill Simon

Soldier creek water user's representative Lou Andersen

Mormon Twin Lakes water user's representative Scott Scheer

City of Fairfield waters users representative J.L. Staley (needs to be decided by the council if a change is needed the City will inform Lou Andersen)

The next order of business was to select an at large member. The floor was open to accept nominations at Large Member which can be anyone with a water right.

Randy Schwab made the nomination for Dennis Strom Second by Jim Rice

Janet Dennis was nominated from the floor, second by Kaylynn Thompson

Ed Smith made the nomination for Rod Gonsales second by Matt McLam

Ed Smith moved to have nominations cease/ Second by Bill Simon

Voting done by paper ballot

The counting of ballots was done by Cindy Yenter and Kevin Lakey.

Lou Andersen announced the at large member selected.

At large member of the Advisory Committee

Dennis Strom

Next order of business was the election of a Treasurer. It needs to be someone with a water right.

Rod Gonsales motioned to nominate Matt McLam for treasurer. Second by Gordon Schmidt. Voting done by hand vote. The question was asked if anyone disagreed with the hand vote. No opposition

TREASURER

Matt McLam

The position for Water Master was the next item of business. Lou explained that there are three candidates on the ballot which was passed out to the group at the beginning of the meeting.

The steering committee interviewed the candidate and felt that all candidates had enthusiasm for the job for an extended amount of time.

Further nominations for position on the floor. None

The three candidates had 5 minutes to give qualifications for the jobs. The following is a list of candidates.

Rusty Kramer
Forest Ballard
Lee Barron

The water master has to have the majority of the votes. When counted the candidate has to have more than 50% of vote or the voting will continue.

After the candidates gave qualifications the floor was opened up to comments. No comments from the floor.

While the ballots were being counted Lou made some last comments, he wanted the group to know that next year he is sure there will be more questions. He wanted the audience to know if anyone was interested in the secretary position to let one of the advisory committee know.

Lou receives the results of the voting. He explains that there was a candidate with more than 50% of the votes by one vote.

WATER MASTER FOR DISTRICT 37 B

Rusty Kramer

The candidates were thanked. Lou Andersen asked if there was any other business and hearing none adjourned the meeting at 3:10p.m.